



REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-11 and 14-21 will remain in the application.

Section 103 rejections

Claims 1-4 and 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Togashi et al (US 5,576,868) in view of Yamauchi et al (US 5,745,202).

Yamauchi et al has a § 102(e) date of October 16, 1996. The current application claims priority to Japanese patent application no. 8-146668, which was filed on May 16, 1996. Applicant will submit a translation of the Japanese patent application to perfect the priority in the near future, thereby removing Yamauchi et al as prior art.

Double patenting rejections

Claims 1-21 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,115,097. Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome the rejection.